KICKSHAWS

DAVID L. SILVERMAN
West Los Angeles, California

Readers are encouraged to send their own favorite linguistic kickshaws to the Associate Editor. All answers appear in the Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.

Philolog (A Tall Texan) Offers Novelty

Robert L. Patton, Jr. of Arlington, Texas, has expanded on an idea introduced in the November 1970 Kickshaws. He wrote that he was struck one day by the discovery that the word ACRONYM could well be, or, in any event, should be, itself an acronym: A Condensed Representation Of Nomenclature Yielding Meaning. This discovery led to Patton's Theory Of The Acronymic Logos (TOTAL), a startling hypothesis that could rock the etymological world. Based on a large body of circumstantial evidence, some of which is given below, he offers the conjecture that the entire English language is the result of the process of acronymization:

LETTERS	Little Etchings That Transcribe Every Readable Sound
WORD	Written Offering Readily Defined
LOGOPHILE	Lovable Old Gent (or Gal) Outlandishly Pursuing Happiness Investigating Lexicographic Enigmas
PALINDROME	Particularly Adroit Language Image Nicely Duplicating Reversed Order Message Exactly
ANAGRAM	Any New Appropriate, Generally Rearranged, Alphabetic Message
ALPHABET	All Letters Pictured; Helps Any Bibliotic Effort Tremendously
CRYPTOGRAM	Characters Replaced; Yet Persevering Testing Out Generally Reveals A Message

Patton hopes someday to compile the Acronymic Dictionary of English, though we doubt not that readers can provide us with a more appropriate title. The process that corresponds to a given acronym is hereby dubbed a MYNORCA. Since Bob Patton has proved himself to be an expert at mynorcazation, we asked him for a proper title for this kickshaw. He responded rather literally with This Is The Labeling Entity. He even supplied a mynorca of MYNORCA: Meaning Yielded Now On Reversely Constructed Acronym.

Word Ways readers are adept, and not only at involutions such as

Patton's; they are an inventive lot, and a challenge will now be hurled at them that will tax their creative talents. MYNORCA is close enough to the name of the smallest of the Balearic Islands to suggest that somewhere there is a perfect referent for the reversal of the largest of the Balearics. The reader who invents the most appropriate referent (it might be a word process or a word family, wholly unrelated to acronyms or mynorcas) for the word ACROJAM will be given the first copy of Patton's Acronymic Dictionary off the press.

Flash

In May and August, 1972, this department discussed our Toiler vs. Spoiler word game. Sixteen three-letter words -- APE, BUD, CAN, DAY, DIE, DOT, HOP, LIP, ONE, PUT, RAT, RIG, ROW, RUE, SUN and TIN -- are written on separate cards, face up, and two players alternately select and keep any previously unpicked card of their choice. The player designated the Toiler wins if either he or his opponent gathers among his words any four that share a common letter, e.g., doT, puT, raT and Tin. His opponent, the Spoiler, wins if neither player holds such a common-letter group after all sixteen cards have been selected.

The key to the game is the recognition that it is really Tic-Tac-Incognito, an out-and-out plagiarism of the game Felix vs. Rover (from our book Your Move, McGraw-Hill, 1972). The sixteen words can be arranged in a four-by-four square in such a way that Toiler's ten winning combinations appear in the four rows, the four columns, and the two principal diagonals. Thus Toiler vs. Spoiler is Tic-Tac-Toe generalized to a four-by-four field with the added variation that one player wins if either player completes a line of four with his symbol, while the other player wins if neither player completes a line (a cat's game).

The concept was mathematically appealing because of the unusual fact that Toiler vs. Spoiler (or Felix vs. Rover) played on a square field of arbitrary dimension is trivially solved for square fields of dimension three-by-three or less or of dimension five-by-five or more. For three-by-three fields (or two-by-two), the Toiler has a clear edge and his winning strategy is easy to describe, whether he plays first or second. For five-by-five or larger fields, using a game plan that is also simply stated, the Spoiler inevitably wins whether he plays first or second. Only the four-by-four case remained unsolved -- until Garry Crum went to work on it. As of August 1972, he had proved, by following the long multi-branching game tree by hand, i.e., without the aid of a digital computer, that if Toiler plays first, he will win against any defense if he plays optimally. The game plan is so complicated, however, that the game remains challenging to play, either in its word or its geometric form. The case of four-by-four with Spoiler playing first remained unsolved.

In the late fall of 1972, Garry Crum succeeded in following completely the game tree for Spoiler first, and your chance of guessing who

is the winner, assuming best play, is one-half, unless you happen to be a speed reader. Care to guess who has the edge in four-by-four Toiler vs. Spoiler with Spoiler playing first? Its Spoiler. The last gap has been closed, and Kickshaws' admiring thanks go to Garry Crum of Louisville, Ohio.

Speed Reading

We've always felt that speed-reading courses are baloney. If you're reading non-artistic material such as a newspaper, a contract, or a professional monograph, you've either learned already when and how to skim at a proper pace, or you'll never learn. And when it comes to an Ogden Nash poem, a play by Ibsen or Neil Simon, a novel by Trollope or E. M. Forster, or an autobiography by V. S. Pritchett, the last thing you want to do is speed-read. That would be like chugalugging a snifter of Napoleon brandy. You want to savor the words, to chew them slowly and reflectively. The speed-reading people will rebut by saying that there is so much creative stuff around that the only way to enjoy it all is by speed-reading. Tell us another, Evelyn. Mr. Speedreader, who has attained the remarkable goal of 30,000 words per minute, has just finished War and Peace in 45 minutes. "It's...uhh...it's about Russia," says he.

A Vocabulary Test You Can Bet Your Zenana Was Not Swiped From The Reader's Digest

Mary J. Youngquist shares Murray Pearce's talent for finding unusual words; incredibly, the dozen given below are taken from Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary, and all of us should know every word in the Collegiate. We're not serious, of course. If you know every word even in a small dictionary such as the Merriam-Webster Pocket Dictionary, you have an IQ of at least 583, and you probably know everything else too!

Score yourself 7 points for every word defined correctly and an extra point simply for pronouncing a word right. Start with a 4-point bonus just for taking the quiz. A total score of 31 or better qualifies you as an expert; if you total 53 or more you rank as a Grand Logomaster. A score of more than 60 is impossible. For evaluating your answers, go to the source.

BIJOUTERIE	RICERCAR	USQUEBAUGH
CATAPLASM	SAVELOY	VADOSE
KRIMMER	STIRK	WUD
LUXATE	TOMBOLO	ZENANA

We solicit a similar set of unusual words from MWPD (attention Word Buff, Ralph Beaman, Flash, Wordbotcher, and The Boys From Burial Hill).

Counting the 4-point cushion and the points for correct pronunciation, our grand total was 28. You be honest, too.

Updates From Our Youngest Known Kickshavian

A long time back, we wondered if a foreign translation exists to the already multilingual Finnegans Wake. It does; Joyce collaborated with an Italian translator to produce an Italian version of Book I, Chapter 8 (ALP). Darryl Francis queried in this department whether the palindromic title AOXOMOXOA of a record album by the Grateful Dead was coined for the occasion. It was not; it is from an ancient Egyptian prayer.

This information was relayed to us by Paul Remley, a sixteen-year-old reader from Ann Arbor, Michigan. Paul is well into practically every branch of logophilia. He is an anagrammarian, e.g., STAGEPLAYER - PEARLY GATES. (He must have in mind either Eve Marie Saint or Peter Finch.) Here is the core of one of his palindromes, which he invites you to complete: ... AS IF FOR A FIG, A MYNAH PIPES A NAME OF A FOEMAN, AS EPIPHANY MAGI, FAR-OFF ...

Paul calls your attention to two gems from the big Web II. If you need an informative definition of "raftman" don't look here; the definition given: n. a raftman. Very helpful. If the Bloodhound of Hounslow or Ralph Beaman and all the other Word Ways contributors ever compile a list of Websterian goofs, such as can be seen in many back issues of this magazine, into one big list, we hope they will include RAFTMAN. Are there any other lapses of this type in Webs II or III?

Paul Remley's other discovery is in the Biography section of Web II: the palindromic name SYDNEY YENDYS. It would be more satisfying if this were not a pseudonym of Sydney Dobell, a Victorian poet, but an authentic name. Nevertheless, we're surprised it has not, apparently, been discovered before. (It's not mentioned in Language on Vacation, although Borgmann cites a similar name, Revilo P. Oliver.)

Geographeedback

Darryl Francis supplemented our labors in trying to sort out the definitions of Near East, Middle East, and Asia Minor, and as a result of his labors, we can report that we are even more confused than we were when we brought up the subject in the August 1972 issue. The confusion is not the fault of Darryl, nor of the people who use these phrases. It arises from the fact that some forty major reference works, including Webster's Geographical Dictionary (WGD), the First and Second Editions of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, the Random House Dictionary, Rand McNally's Atlas, etc. refuse to agree among themselves. WGD says that Asia Minor is the peninsula forming the western extremity of Asia (cf. Anatolia, says Webster's), bounded north, south, and west by the Black Sea, the Mediterranean, and the Aegean Sea. No eastern boundary is given, but the implication is that it is no farther east than the Euphrates. Hammond's Atlas agrees with three boundaries, but doubles the area of Asia Minor by extending it eastward to the Caspian Sea. Other references include part of the Balkan peninsula, especially Greece and Bulgaria. Still

others extend Asia Minor farther south to include parts of the Holy Land, whatever that is. The rationale behind this definition seems to be that the portion of Alexander's empire that fell to Seleucus is Asia Minor.

The Near East is variously used to denote (1) the Balkans (2) the Seleucid empire (see Asia Minor definition) (3) all the above plus Egypt and the Sudan (4) all the above plus Libya and the Middle East, whatever that is. Web II says that the Near East is sometimes used as a synonym of the Middle East. Web III says that the Near East is sometimes used to denote the Balkans, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Sudan, Libya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Morocco, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, and India!

WGD says that the Middle East (a term of British origin, not used by the U.S. State Department) denotes the Near East (don't ask us which one) plus Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Burma! Web III says that the Middle East means southwest Asia plus northeast Africa (roughly, Libya to Afghanistan) but sometimes extended in both directions from Morocco to Pakistan.

There are at least two facts that you can be reasonably sure of regarding Asia Minor, the Near East and the Middle East: (1) Turkey is in all three of them (though some references exclude European Turkey from the Near East or the Middle East) and (2) Paraguay is not in any of them.

Poker Word Updates

Mary Youngquist and Murray Pearce have collaborated on some of the Poker Word challenges issued in the August 1972 Kickshaws:

Challenge 1: find a pair of flushwords (five-letter words from the same half of the alphabet) with no letters in common
Mary produced from the first half of the alphabet MILCH FAKED, MILCH BAKED, FILCH BAKED, CHALK GIBED, CHALK JIBED, CHALK IMBED, and CHALK MIDGE. From the latter half she located only the tough pair PUNTY VROWS, but that's all that was asked for. Murray located the two pairs CLIMB FAKED and POWNY STRUV.

Challenge 2: find two straightwords (five-letter words with letters in alphabetical or reverse alphabetical order) which produce ten letters in alphabetical order when placed side by side
This could have meant, though we didn't intend it to, two straightwords that were alphabetically nested, i.e., when placed side by side columnwise and read row by row, the letters appear in alphabetic order. CHORT and GIPSY meet this challenge thus: cGhIoPrStY. What we meant was side by side horizontally, without nesting. The only three straight flushwords known are ACHIM, LIFED and YUPON, and if the challenge permitted reverse alphabetic order, YUPON LIFED would qualify. To date then, Challenge 2 remains open.

Challenge 3: find three straightwords with no common letters
Mary found four such trios -- CHIMP YUNGA BELOW, CHIMP YUNGA SOLED, CHIMP YUNKA BELOW, CHIMP YUNKA SOLED. Murray met the challenge with three MWPD words -- CHIMP ABORT UNFED.

Challenge 4: find four patwords (either straights or flushes) with no common letters
Both Mary and Murray solved the somewhat harder problem of finding four flushwords with no common letters; from Challenge 1, they already had one pair of such flushwords from the first half of the alphabet and a second pair from the last half of the alphabet.

In a privately issued challenge to find a straightword whose reversal is also a word (and hence a straightword also), Murray Pearce came up with SOLED DELOS. As he points out, flushword transposals are easy to come by, e.g., AMBLE BLAME MABLE MELBA. Do two flushwords exist that are reversals of each other? Remember, sources are virtually "open" on all Poker Word challenges, i.e., any entry, capitalized or uncapitalized, or inferred inflected form thereof, found in any twentieth-century dictionary, thesaurus, or atlas.

The ease with which Challenge 4 was demolished led us to wonder if it is possible to produce five patwords with no letters in common. If we believed that this goal were attainable and not simply a task that willing Kickshavians would waste a lot of time breaking their lances on, we'd throw it out as a challenge, but we don't, so we won't. (Doubting Thomases are referred to "The 'Jotto' Problem" in the February 1968 Word Ways, where the problem of constructing five five-letter words out of 25 different letters is discussed.)

Still More Updates

Catherine Petroski of Austin, Texas, adds RENT, WHY and VIN to our Porcus list of words whose Pig-Latin words are also words: ENTREE, HIGHWAY, and INVEIGH. The original Porcus list appeared in the February, 1970 Kickshaws.

Mary J. Youngquist has corrected our erroneous statement that the words in Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary are a subset of those in Webster's Third Unabridged Dictionary: MINISKIRT appears in the Collegiate, but not in Big Web II or III. True, MINI is in the latest Addenda Section of the Big Web with MINISKIRT as one of its definitions, but MINISKIRT is not defined.

The Phantom Strikes

Israel (Izzy) Gross of Grosse Point, Michigan, the immortal anagrammarian who discovered that BANALITIES is a one-word anagram (many logophiles prefer the term "transposal" for a one-word anagram of a single word) of INSATIABLE, rocked us with a post card in which he wrote:

> "For months you've been hounding me to produce a good anagram of PALINDROME, using only a word that can be found in standard, modern dictionaries. Hound me no more, for I now have a transposal of this, and I'll bet you can't find it, even if you devote a year of study to the project."

Read on only if you are less willing to waste two dark hours searching for the ultimate than we were. Correspondent Gross had the temerity to print at the bottom of the card in letters that required a mirror to read: "Please note that I did not say I have discovered a transposal of PALINDROME. Gotcha!"

Believe It Or Else

On New Year's Eve, a Hollywood agent, speaking of a certain well-liked movie and TV film director, did not say, "He's a beautiful man." He even resisted the temptation to say, "He's quite a guy."

The director he spoke of was Ida Lupino.

And, speaking later of a film editor, whom he did refer to as "quite a guy" and "a beautiful man", he did not, at least in our hearing, once say, "He's one of the best in the business, y'know."

He did, however, say, "He's, y'know, one of the best in the business."

Miscellanea

AUROCHS and ORYX are an interesting pair. Though etymologically unrelated, they are near-homophones, and their referents are also sufficiently similar to cause the listener to be unsure, in many contexts, which one the speaker means. Are there any more pairs like that?

Murray Pearce relayed to us the fact that Darryl Francis has found a transposal of the printers' top line of type, ETAOINSHRDLU, viz. OUTLANDISHER.

Add one to the list of homoliteral words, says Garry Crum. ISOGRAM is an isogram of "isogram".

A pearl from Earl (Wilson): A pastor put up the following sign: THIS IS A CH--CH. WHAT IS MISSING?

The Wordbotcher wonders why women seem to have more than their fair allowance of pejorative adjectives. Many (probably most) adjectives applied to humans are neuter in practice, e.g., testy, surly. All, theoretically, are neuter, but it cannot be denied that burly, stocky, swarthy, and husky are masculine in usage. Also that they are non-pejorative. But think of all the feminine adjectives that are, to say the least, unflattering. Blowsy, dowdy, frowsy, frumpy, slatternly, and any number of others. Can anyone think of

one unflattering masculine adjective? Can anyone explain this language trait?

Jack Carney reports that of the celebrated gladiators-at-law (F.C. Bailey, Melvin Belli, Clarence Darrow, Jake Ehrlich, Jerry Giesler, William Fallon, Samuel Leibowitz, Louis Nizer, etc.) the one with the most colossal gall was Earl Rogers. In California vs. Hardy, Rogers' client Hardy was indicted for first degree murder. Rogers conducted a triple defense: (1) Hardy was elsewhere at the time of the shooting, (2) Hardy shot the victim in self-defense, (3) Hardy was legally insane when he shot the victim without provocation. A jury might be expected to react unfavorably to this legal overkill, but Rogers saved his client's neck with a token verdict of involuntary manslaughter.

This defense is more than a little reminiscent of the legendary case of the Athenian Sophist who was hauled into court for borrowing a new copper pot and returning it damaged. The Sophist denied the claim for damages on three grounds: (1) he never borrowed the pot, (2) it was already damaged at the time he borrowed it, (3) it was still in perfect condition when he returned it.

It gives one to wonder whether Rogers was acquainted with this legendary defense and, being the legal showboat that he was, was purposely leaving this classic signature in the annals of criminal law to serve as a sort of epitaph.

And while we're in a wondering mood, David Copperfield gives us much cause for speculation. Even without Dickens' admission, it would be clear to anyone who had read one of his biographies that Copperfield (at least through adolescence) was Dickens' autobiography. There is an unusual theme that runs through the novel. Aside from the various diminutives by which David Copperfield is called by Peggoty, Ham, his mother, Capt. Peggoty and others, the four people who influenced his early years most profoundly used sobriquets unrelated to his name, all different. Steerforth, the idol of his youth, called him Daisy. Dora, his child wife, called him Doadie. His stern, beloved Aunt Betsy called him Trotwood, and his future stepfather, the tyrannical Mr. Murdstone, referred to him, for reasons not wholly honorable, as Brooks of Sheffield.

Was this all a reflection of Dickens' identity quest, or was it significant of nothing? And if the former, was it conscious symbolism on the part of Dickens or otherwise? And last, has the question ever occurred to a biographer or reviewer of Dickens before? We ask, since at least half our "discoveries" usually turn out to be rediscoveries.

Dualogisms

"Religious, he may be," mused Holmes. "But we may be certain 'that he is neither Jew nor Catholic."

"How could you know that?" I answered, startled. "We saw him

for only a moment last Friday at Claridge's."

"Yes, my dear Watson, and what was our pious fanatic doing when we saw him?"

"Why, eating, of course!"

"A ham sandwich," said Holmes with relish.

While I digested this unsavory combination, it occurred to me that even more could be deduced.

"Holmes, we can also rule out Mohammedanism," I said with some pride.

"Oh, do be quiet, Watson, there's a good fellow."

from The Giant Rat of Sumatra
written posthumously by A. Conan Doyle

The Word Wayfarers with whom we've corresponded on the subject of drawing multiple, virtually unrelated conclusions from a single observation, unanimously feel that the subject has been covered before somewhere, and they're probably right, though our own investigation has proved fruitless. For the moment, let's call them Dualogisms. Here are a few:

He's a gentleman and a scholar. I saw him tip his mortarboard to a lady.

That fellow in the pub -- the one with the Gaelic accent -- is obviously a Manxman. Oh? How would you know? You've never been to the Isle of Man. Easy. It's the only thing left; he obviously is neither an Irishman nor a Scotsman; he ordered ginger beer, and he didn't count his change!

Sure, he's neither for Eire nor for Ulster. Didn't I just now see him buy two scoops of sherbet -- tangerine and lime?

From Ralph Beaman:

As the old saw says, faint heart ne'er won fair lady. Miss America turned him down because he's a cardiac patient.

He doesn't hide his light under a bushel. In fact, I just saw him bury his basket under the lamppost.

Ugh.

From Faith Eckler:

The poor girl was left high and dry. I saw her clutching an empty jeroboam of brut champagne.

My first dinner as a new bride was neither fish nor fowl. I served it with red wine.

Geesh.

From Mary Youngquist:

He's a compulsive gambler and a religious fanatic. He opens each poker session with an invocation, and when asked to make a decision at a Billy Graham revival, he flipped a coin.

He's a sword swallower who worries about his job. He's got a perforated ulcer.

Blech.

As you can see, Ralph, Faith and Mary have the perfect touch. You may have it, too, and we invite you to send us your best efforts. Here are two "observations" that we haven't been able to think of good double conclusions for yet: He washes his Bentley himself. He bought glasses for his seeing-eye dog. And here are two pairs of double conclusions that we can't find appropriate observations for: It's a land of milk and honey. She loves him heart and soul. See what you can do.

Passing The Word

When Word Ways arrives each season, on time, expertly assembled, and always full of pleasant surprises, it's easy to forget that the magazine is virtually a one-couple operation. Ross and Faith Eckler have succeeded in making the entire process of putting together and distributing Word Ways as professional as you're likely to find -- even more so than the norm, in fact, since subscribers have not yet become numbers in the memory of some deaf and blind computer.

As the Editor has said, Word Ways has not exactly been a bonanza, although his annual operating deficit has been kept with acceptable bounds. Now it's time to consider ways of increasing Word Ways' circulation, for there are myriads of logophiles who have never heard of the magazine, more's the pity, and little chance, at present, of their becoming acquainted with it or vice versa.

There is something that each subscriber can do about it: give a gift subscription. If you decide to do that, you have two choices of recipient: a personal friend or a library. If you buy a year of Word Ways for a private individual, the potential spread to his friends of Word Ways is probably roughly counterbalanced by the possibility he may not renew -- statistically, such a gift subscription should result in approximately one permanent addition to the circulation list. But if you buy a subscription to a library, the list of statistically-expected new subscribers is hard to estimate, but it is potentially substantial. We recommend it. Public libraries make excellent sources for spreading the Word. Best, we think, are institutional libraries, including prison libraries, hospital libraries, and retirement home libraries. Best of

the institutional libraries, from the viewpoint of volume of usage, is probably the school library, especially university, college, or junior college. If you decide to make a college library your recipient, find out if it is departmentalized. For example, the most appropriate departmental libraries of our favorite university (for giving Word Ways the display it merits) are those of the departments of English, Linguistics, Classics, Foreign Languages, Education, Mathematics, Anthropology & Sociology, and Psychology, not necessarily in that order. If one department already receives Word Ways, send it to another. If you're not sure, and would prefer that the Department of Business & Subscriptions select a likely candidate library for a year's subscription in your name, send seven dollars to Faith W. Eckler, Spring Valley Road, Morristown, N.J. 07960 with a memo that you would like her to select the best recipient. Glossa, the patron deity of logophiles, will smile upon you.

Chess Piece

The list of blunders in Webster's Second and Third, which one day may be catalogued in an article called Websterrata in this Journal, is growing apace, but we have seen no error so striking and memorable as an error in Black's Law Dictionary, Revised Fourth Edition, copyrighted in 1968, repeat, 1968. One could well call it the ultimate in non-prophecy.

Stanley Chess, a lawyer of East Meadow, N.Y., sent us from Black's this excerpted definition of impossibility: "an act ... contrary to the course of nature ..." Fair enough. Black's proceeds to subdivide impossibility into two categories, relative and absolute. Absolute impossibility means (and the following is a verbatim quote) "impossible in any case (e.g., for A. to reach the moon)."

Need we remind you that 1969 was the year Armstrong and Aldrin (of Apollo) walked on the moon?

More Class I Diseases

In the November 1972 Kickshaws, we introduced the concept of Class I diseases, namely those (as "the flu") that are always, or at least frequently, prefaced with the definite article. We could think of only fifteen, but Philip Cohen found an epidemic of additional examples. Our list included plague, mange, grippe, flu, whooping cough, hives, mumps, measles, shingles, chicken pox, croup, gout, bends, crabs, and colic. In his first response, Phil added chills, creeps, jumps, shakes (a colloquial form of certain Class II diseases such as palsy or St. Vitus' Dance), jimjams, screaming meemies, and uglies (one of the few diseases one takes pills to acquire rather than to cure). Note that the colloquial versions of several Class II diseases are Class I: influenza and the flu, delirium tremens and the D.T.'s, gonorrhea and the clap, syphilis and the syph.

Phil sent a second list in which he collated Class I synonyms for

various diseases. There are at least four Class I terms for nausea, and no less than 25 for delirium tremens. Diarrhoea has at least nine Class I versions, at latest count. Phil adds also rheumatiz, collywobbles, blahs, and nubs.

We recall two more, on which we were briefed by the U.S. Air Force in 1953 before being transferred from Lowry Air Force Base, Colorado to the budding installation at Cape Canaveral, Florida, and in 1954 before being assigned to a base in Japan. Incidentally, despite what some publications imply, there is no such geographical entity as Cape Kennedy, only a NASA installation. Geographic nomenclature is not generally alterable either by executive fiat or by legislation. The cape from which all those rockets have been launched is and will remain Canaveral. Prior to our transfer to Florida, we were alerted to a persistent and spreading body fungus prevalent on the Florida East Coast and harder to get rid of even than the dreaded fungus that attacks swimmers in that area and takes up lodgings in the middle ear. The Class II name of the body fungus we do not recall, but we'll never forget the Class I equivalent: the creeping crud. But if you find that name ominous, consider the Class I sobriquet of an incredibly disgusting male veneral disease which the U.S. armed forces found to be a problem in the early fifties. Class II name: lymphogranuloma venereum. Class I name: the grut. Talk about ominous.

We must add, while we're on the subject, that Class I diseases are by no means confined to human maladies; they can cause epizootics as well as epidemics. For instance, the blind staggers is an equine disease. But we're much more intrigued by another Class I equine disease that a veterinarian told us about: the hacks. It is an inflammation of the serous membrane of the lungs, identified by the coarse, grating quality of the whinny. Fortuitous that it's the hacks and not the hack; we can define it as a plural, pleural, horse condition manifested by a hoarse condition.

Gangsters Pauperize Kickshaws

Les Card has been discovering the joys of browsing through Jack Levine's List of Pattern Words (and Non-Pattern Words, too). He observes that there is no isomorph to CHECKBOOK. Moving on to polyisomorphic words, he offers a newsitem entitled Gibberish: Cannulate, kittenish cannibals vaccinate dissocial harridans, filleting worrisome bullpouts. And three isomorphic isogram items: Nymphlike neighbors, anxiously savouring unmatched royalties, privately published unmedical reactions staunchly upholding untypical trifocals. Shadowlike humpbacked pachyderms sneakingly outflanked lachrymose clambering holidayers. Neighborly moustached Republican lumberjack, schemingly purchasing previously profitable timberland, thumpingly vouchsafed redoubling noticeably outlandish marketings.

Long isomorphic isograms make very challenging cryptograms; an example of one used for this purpose is cited in the May 1968 Word

Ways. Artistically speaking, the crypt would be pleasing in direct proportion to the number of those fifteen ten-letter isograms that could be converted by one-to-one cipher substitution to legitimate ten-letter isograms in the Big Web. We had difficulty scoring two. How much better can you do?

A Pangrammatic Update

Les Card has responded to our invitation to set in proper perspective Kevin Kearn's claim in the August 1972 Kickshaws that every letter of the alphabet appears above the line on every page of the main body of Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary. Skeptical of our surmise that the same might be true of the Merriam-Webster Pocket Dictionary, he studied a random sample of pages by choosing only those with prime page numbers. Of the 46 pages headed by prime numbers less than 200, seven proved non-panalphabetic: p.3 lacks X; p.11 lacks Q; p.29 lacks Q and X (the only page of the 46 that lacks more than one letter); p.107 lacks Z; p.113 lacks X; p.173 lacks Q; and p.193 lacks Z. Switching to the end of the MWPD, Les found that of the twelve prime pages from 503 to 587, all are panalphabetic except p.541, which lacks Z.

As a footnote to Ralph Beaman's article, "The Pangrammatic Window", in the August Word Ways, Les points out that all 26 letters appear on the first 13 lines of column 1 of p.139 in the MWPD. The American Association of Optometrists is sending Les a new pair of trifocals.

Those Scrutable Russians

A challenge we issued in the August 1972 Kickshaws was to find the longest English word whose cipher equivalent in the Russian (Cyrillic) alphabet (capital letters only) is also an English word. The eleven Cyrillic capitals that are similar in form to Roman capitals are given below, with equivalents appearing vertically:

Roman:	A	E	K	M	N	O	R	S	T	U	V
Cyrillic:	A	E	K	M	H	O	P	C	T	Y	B

There are a large number of qualified words that use only the "fixed point" letters A, E, K, M, O and T. Most of them have no more than four letters, but Les Card holds the uncontested record with TEAM-MATE. As for words that do not consist entirely of fixed points, Mary Youngquist had what appeared to be a record with SNEER-CHEEP. However, Philip Cohen topped it with an inspired pair we suspect is untoppable: RESTATE-PECTATE. Phil originally misinterpreted the challenge as calling for English-Russian lookalikes, e.g. COCKY, which is a Russian word (pronounced Sahs'key: adj. pert. to a baby's pacifier). This interpretation is a much more interesting one, potentially, and we hope the Aliquipster will expand it into an article involving several different foreign languages.

Macro And Micro

In the February 1971 Kickshaws, Richard Field, Jr. offered a list of standard numerical prefixes of use to those who work either with telescopes or microscopes. His list extended in both directions to the twelfth power of ten. Phil Cohen has extended the list to the minus eighteenth power of ten. Herewith we present the revised list and solicit readers to fill in the blanks and to extend it even further:

ten - DECA	tenth - DECI
hundred - HECTO	hundredth - CENTI
thousand - KILO	thousandth - MILLI
ten thousand - MYRIO	ten thousandth -
million - MEGA	millionth - MICRO
billion - GIGA	billionth - NANO
trillion - TERA	trillionth - PICO
quadrillion -	quadrillionth - FEMTO
quintillion -	quintillionth - ATTO

Penney Word Squares

Most Kickshaws readers know that a double word square is a square array of letters in which each row forms a word and in which each column also forms a word, all words in rows and columns different. To the right we give a simple four-by-four double word square. If we assign, row by row, each letter its alphabetic "rank" (from one to four), the corresponding numerical square we obtain (illustrated at right) is not a Latin square since it does not have each of the four numbers in each row and each column. If we rank by columns instead, we again obtain a numerical square which is not a Latin square (illustrated at right).

F	O	R	E
A	P	E	S
R	E	A	P
O	N	L	Y

2	3	4	1
1	3	2	4
4	2	1	3
3	2	1	4

2	3	4	1
1	4	2	3
4	1	1	2
3	2	3	4

In the February 1972 Kickshaws, Walter Penney produced square word groups which, although not double word squares (since the vertical entries were not words), were Latin squares in a double sense: whether the ranking was done by row or by column, the same numerical array was generated, in which every row and column contained every number without repeats. In August 1972 we issued what we thought was an impossible challenge: produce a four-by-four double word square that was also a Latin square according to the Penney definition. Mary Youngquist and Murray Pearce share the prize offered: title in fee simple to Asia Minor. All they have to do is agree on its definition and on how they would like to divide it. The first six of the squares given below are Mary's, and the last two are Murray's.

P	E	T	S
A	T	O	M
W	O	N	E
S	N	E	W

P	A	T	S
A	T	O	M
T	O	N	E
S	M	E	W

B	E	S	T
E	A	T	S
S	T	O	A
T	S	A	R

A	L	P	S
L	O	R	I
P	R	A	M
S	I	M	P

I M P S	A M P S	C L A P	C H A R
M O R A	M O R A	H A V E	H A V E
P R A M	P R A M	A M E L	A T E N
S A M P	S A M P	R E N A	T E R A

Strictly speaking, five of Mary's six squares are not double word squares, for they utilize the same words in the rows and columns.

What's SNEW? you ask. Nothing much; what's new with you?

Mary closed the subject with a five-by-five word square, given at the right. We are not even tempted to invite you to try for a six-by-six square. Even if it were possible, which it isn't, Kickshaws can offer no prize remotely suitable for such a feat.

S	T	A	L	E
T	A	L	E	S
A	L	G	O	T
L	E	O	R	A
E	S	T	A	R

Mad Avenue Strikes Again

Ordinarily, advertisers strive to make their message as clear as possible; in fact, most are designed to get through to the village idiot. The editor recently called to our attention an advertisement with a different twist; on the back of the magazine The American Statistician, Addison-Wesley led off an ad for three textbooks with the cryptic remark

Y LUAEB H O DTYO AOOSGL

Care to try and figure out the hidden message? Although the slogan doesn't have the pizzazz of (say) "Let Esso put a tiger in your tank", it does have the advantage of universality; it can equally well be applied to the sale of shoes, ships or sealing wax (or, for that matter, floor wax). If you give up, see Answers and Solutions.

The New Grammar

From the Los Angeles Herald Examiner: "The National League, which will not use the experimental pinch-hitter rule, gave its approval for the American League experiment for the next three seasons with Chub Feeney, president of the National League, admitting 'if it does work out, we wouldn't be reticent to adopting it'". Chub Feeney is not known for his aversion on any topic.

Proprhipidoglossomorpha?

In 1956, the Complete Contest Service of Phoenix, Arizona assembled with the aid of college students a booklet of words from 15 to 27 letters in length. One of the most mysterious entries in this booklet is the word given in the title; it does not appear in Webster's Second or Third, Funk & Wagnalls Unabridged, Random House Unabridged, or the Oxford English Dictionary. Furthermore, National Library Publications, the present purveyors of the booklet, were unable to suggest

where this word was found. (Was it a by-product of that army of monkeys randomly typing the books of the British Museum?) As a service to Kickshaw readers, we have provided the ingredients for a definition of the word by examining the etymology of its parts:

PROP	short for propionic, pertaining to a colorless, pungent fatty acid
RHIPIDO	from the Greek rhipis, meaning a fan
GLOSSO	from the Greek glosso, meaning a tongue
MORPHA	a classification of animals formed like a (specified) type

What does this suggest? We think that it is the scientific name of a previously-unrecognized genus of animals celebrated in song and story. Two of the members of this genus are:

- the SHMOO, a pale, pork-chop-shaped animal with a strong instinct for self-sacrifice, introduced by Al Capp in his Li'l Abner comic strip some twenty-five years ago
- the WOM POM, a hairy beast which can be entirely processed into useful consumer goods, introduced by the British songwriter-performer team of Michael Flanders and Donald Swann about a decade ago

How about it, Kickshavians? What Proprhipidoglossomorpha are you acquainted with?